

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Central Union Church Affairs in a Prosperous Condition.

REPORTS FOR THE YEAR READ.

Excellent Showing in All Departments. The Membership is on the Increase. Dr. Hutchins' Efforts Appreciated. Report on the Portuguese School.

The regular annual meeting of the Central Union Church was held last night in the parlors of that church. The main business of the evening was the reading of church reports, which were voted placed on file and printed.

Mr. W. W. Hall, as church clerk, made the first report, as follows: 462 members of Central Union Church in regular standing, as reported Dec. 31, 1893; additions during the year 1894 by letters from other churches, 18; additions on confessions of faith, 11; making a total membership of 491; losses by dismission to other churches, 24; losses by death, 4; leaving on the roll of membership, 463.

Besides the figures just given, Mr. Hall's report contains other very interesting points.

"Notwithstanding the large number of members who have taken letters to churches of other denominations established in Honolulu, during the past year, so many have joined the church by letters and on confession of faith that our total membership has been increased by one."

"There have been thirteen infants and one adult baptized during the year."

"Although Central Union Church has had no settled pastor during the year, the usual Sabbath services and the Wednesday evening prayer-meetings have been regularly held and well attended."

"It was during the joy and excitement of the Fourth of July, when our new Republic first took her stand among the nations of the earth, that Rev. L. B. Penrose arrived here from the State of Washington, to act as our pastor for three months, just before Mr. Penrose left us, on September 15th, Dr. R. G. Hutchins came to us from Southern California. For over four months he has gone in and out among this people and has filled the pulpit in a very acceptable manner."

"At a church meeting held December 19th, it was voted to send a call to Rev. Douglas P. Birnie, of Allston, Mass., to become our pastor, and we trust that in a few weeks we shall have a pastor settled over this church."

Mr. Lowrey, as treasurer of the church, read the following report: Receipts, \$4,080.94 and disbursements \$3,801.09, leaving a balance on hand of \$279.85.

The balance of \$101.64 on hand at the beginning of the year, stood \$100.37 to the credit of the Poor Fund, and \$1.27 to the credit of Incidentals. Of the receipts, \$139.50 was from the special collection taken up for Home and Foreign Mission work, which, with the balance referred to, deducted from the total receipts, leaves \$3,839.80, which was appropriated: fifty-five per cent. to the Hawaiian Board (in addition to the special collection); twelve and one-half per cent. to Poor Fund; twenty per cent. to Central Union Sunday School; five per cent. to District Sunday Schools; and seven and one-half per cent. to incidentals. After making the payments there stands to the credit of Poor Fund, \$155.34, and incidentals, \$124.51, which represents the balance now on hand, \$279.85.

Respectfully submitted, F. J. LOWREY, Treasurer Central Union Church, Honolulu, Jan. 28, 1895.

J. B. Atherton, treasurer to the Board of Trustees, reported receipts of \$5,940.24, and disbursements of \$5,910.03, leaving a cash balance on hand of \$30.21.

Mr. Atherton, as treasurer of the Building Fund of the church, reported also the receipts of \$2,749.55, and disbursements of \$2,474.16, leaving a cash balance on hand of \$275.39.

C. M. Cooke, as superintendent of the Sunday school, reported a total attendance during the year of 22,021, an average of 423 each Sabbath. On December 9th, 510, the largest number at one time, were present and on July 22d only 311, the lowest number, were present. The faithfulness of attendance on the part of teachers and those who have so ably assisted in the music is worthy of special mention and thanks. In place of receiving Christmas gifts this year, the children decided to give where needed. Their offering for this purpose up to December 16th amounted to \$108.25 with additional donations of \$156.

Wm. J. Forbes as Sunday school treasurer, reported total receipts of \$1728.03 and expenses of \$1550.49, leaving a balance on hand of \$177.54.

The report of Mrs. Hyde on the Women's Board of Missions contained a detailed account of missionaries that have called in this city from various places, of the addresses delivered before the Board by prominent persons, of the correspondence between this and other parts, of books and pamphlets sent and received, of the work on these islands, of Dr. Talmage's address here, of the establishment during the past year of the free kindergartens and of other interesting points in connection with the work.

The report of the Missionaries, a society formed twenty years ago, was presented by Miss Belle F. Jones. In it the lady spoke of the meetings as being specially interesting. The past year was spent in the support of four girls at Kawaiahae seminary and a native bible reader. It is the intention of the society to support others this year if possible. The annual membership has been twenty-four for this year, advancing seven over last year. The life membership of forty-four is one more than the previous

year. This makes a total membership of sixty-eight for 1894.

The Makiki Sunday school report by Miss Ella B. Snow showed a total of seventy-one names enrolled, with an average of twenty for each Sunday. Chinese formed the largest proportion. The rest were Japanese, Portuguese and Hawaiians.

Dr. N. B. Emerson gave a very interesting report on the work among the Portuguese, the full text of which is printed below:

The progress in this Sabbath school during the year has been most encouraging, justifying the hopes and expectations of its friends and giving promise to still greater growth and usefulness in the future. When one considers what a numerically strong and prolific factor the Portuguese element is in our composite population, it needs no argument to prove the necessity of lifting to a higher plane of education and Christian civilization the individuals that compose it. The hopes of the statesmen and philanthropists alike for the future weal of the Republic of Hawaii are centered in the virtue, intelligence and religious enlightenment of its people, and especially of those who, like the Portuguese, are destined to be numbered among its permanent residents, citizens and voters.

It may seem almost a work of supererogation to adduce arguments in advocacy of the special needs of this work among the Portuguese. It may also be thought by some that the gain in Christian belief and character, which it is sought to confer upon the Portuguese colonists who come to our shores, is so slight and nominal as not to warrant the efforts made, or to justify the danger of antagonizing and irritating those among them who still cling to what is called the mother church. It seems, however, to the writer of this report that no one, however libeled he might be, would continue to be of that opinion after becoming acquainted with the facts of the case.

To adduce but a single instance or illustration: The superstitious observances of the so-called annual festival of the Holy Ghost (Espiritu Santo) are so abhorrent to all Christian ideas of the methods of imparting or receiving divine influence as to breed in one who looks into them feelings of aversion that must be akin to what Martin Luther felt when he denounced the sale of indulgences by John Fetzler in the sixteenth century.

Among the added facilities that have been generously provided, either by means furnished by private individuals or by this church, in aid of the Portuguese Sabbath school and church—both of which are so closely linked together in their fortunes as to represent an important part of the Christian enterprise of this Central Union Church, should be mentioned the extensive repairs and additions made to the church building on Miller street during the year that has passed.

The result has been a substantial gain in convenience and in seating capacity, a change much appreciated by the occupants, who meet there for divine service each Sunday morning, and who likewise come together in the same place for Sabbath school in the afternoon. This increase of seating capacity, however, has not been so great as to be much ahead of the growth of the school, and the time is close at hand, if it has not already arrived, when still greater accommodation will have to be provided in order to give the classes that elbow-room, freedom and separation from each other which are required for efficient class work.

As an offset to the loss sustained in the school by the departure of Miss Arcina Fernandes to her home in Illinois, should be mentioned the reinforcement of the school's strength by the arrival of Miss Laura Pires from Jacksonville, in the same State, who comes well equipped mentally and morally to carry on the work done by her predecessor in conducting the kindergarten during the week, and in helping to conduct the primary department of the school on Sunday.

She was accompanied by Mrs. Tarbell and by John Ferreira, her brother, to the latter, both of whom have strengthened the school by enlisting as teachers.

The recent departure of Mary Ferreira to Ewa, to take a position as teacher of a Government school newly established in that district, while to be reckoned as a loss to the Portuguese Sabbath school in Honolulu, from a higher point of view is to be counted a great gain, as being a practical illustration of the old proverb: "There is that scattereth abroad yet increaseth." She goes forth with the expectation of soon being able to start a much-needed Sabbath school work in the district that is to be her home.

Among the public exhibitions and entertainments which the school has enjoyed during the year, largely as a result of the bounty of this church, should be mentioned the Easter and Christmas festivals, which were occasions that emphasized the dramatic and lyric talent that naturally belongs to the Portuguese people and at the same time marked the growth of the scholars in Bible knowledge.

The school also very much enjoyed the annual outing and picnic which it took in August at Independence park.

On behalf of the school, the superintendent desires, at this late date, to return thanks to the superintendent of the Oahu Railroad for kind accommodation in the way of cheap transportation, and to the many friends who on that occasion, as well as on other occasions, freely gave their personal services or provided substantial material for entertainment.

I am informed by the treasurer of the Portuguese Sabbath School (Mr. A. F. Cooke), that the school has been aided by this church in providing the entertainments above mentioned to the amount of \$73, of which sum a small balance still remains unused, which it is proposed to use in the purchase of books for the school.

The collections made by the school during the year amount to the sum of \$47.61.

I am happy to state that Mr. William A. Bowen has kindly consented to enter upon the duties of superintendent in my place.

N. B. EMERSON.
Honolulu, Jan. 29, 1895.
After benediction by the pastor, the meeting adjourned.

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